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Message Text

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13
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 ACDA-05 /075 W
---------- 081809
R 020125Z MAR 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9340
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC
FBIS OKINAWA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PROP CH PINR
SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S DAILY ATTACK FOCUSES ON TENG HSIAO-PING

REF: HONG KONG 2342

1. SUMMARY: A PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE FEBRUARY 29 ATTACKS "THAT CAPITALIST ROADER" AS THE SOURCE OF THE PRESENT ANTI-MAO REVISIONIST LINE AND IDENTIFIES HIM BY CITING A WELL-KNOWN TENG HSIAO-PING QUOTATION. AFTER ELABORATING MANY OF TENG'S EVIL DEEDS, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT, HOWEVER, THE ARTICLE ENDS ON A CALL FOR STUDY AND VIGILANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. A HARD-HITTING ARTICLE IN THE FEBRUARY 29 PEOPLE'S DAILY MAKES THE CURRENT MEDIA ATTACK AGAINST TENG HSIAO-PING MORE EXPLICIT. CO-AUTHORED BY AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTATOR LIANG HSIAO AND HITHERTO UNKNOWN JEN MING, THE ARTICLE SINGLES OUT
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"THAT CAPITALIST ROADER" WHO IS QUOTED AS SAYING "IT

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DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER A CAT IS BLACK OR WHITE, AS LONG
AS IT CATCHES MICE," A WELL-KNOWN TENG SAYING. THIS INDIVIDUAL
IS CHARGED WITH HAVING PRACTICED CLASS CAPITULATIONISM DURING
THE ANTI-JAPANESE RESISTANCE, HAVING IN 1957 PROCLAIMED THAT
CLASSES HAD BEEN ELIMINATED AND HAVING BEEN A TARGET OF
CHAIRMAN MAO'S CRITICISMS AND STRUGGLES DURING THE CULTURAL
REVOLUTION. NOW, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, HE (TENG) HAS
STIRRED UP THE RIGHT DEVIATIONIST WIND FROM HIS POSITION
HIGH WITHIN THE PARTY.

3. THE ARTICLE DISSECTS THE REVISIONIST LINE OF TENG AND HIS
GROUP IN NOW-FAMILIAR TERMS, ADDING THAT THEY OPPOSE SELF-
RELIANCE AND BELIEVE THAT CHINA'S SCIENTIFIC BACKWARDNESS
CAN BE OVERCOME ONLY BY BEGGING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. THEY
ARE ATTACKED STRONGLY FOR HAVING REINSTATED DISGRACED OFFICIALS,
WHO THEY CLAIMED WERE "FIRM IN DETERMINATION AND NOT AFRAID
TO BE STRUCK DOWN AGAIN." THEY ARE SAID TO HAVE DENOUNCED
LEADING YOUNG CADRES FOR HAVING "RISEN BY HELICOPTER"
INSTEAD OF BEING PROMOTED STEP BY STEP --EVIDENTLY A DIG
AT WANG HUNG-WEN AND PEOPLE LIKE HIM AND AN IMPLICIT CALL
FOR THEIR DEMOTION.

4. THE ARTICLE MOVES THE ANTI-RIGHTIST ASSAULT ONE STEP CLOSER
TO A PUBLIC, FORMAL DENUNCIATION OF TENG BY NAME. THE AUTHORS,
HOWEVER, SEEM CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE CAMPAIGN.
WHILE WARNING THAT THE STRUGGLE WILL BE A LONG ONE, THEY
STRESS THE NECESSITY FOR STUDY AND COMPREHENSION OF THE
DANGER OF REVISIONISM, ESCHEWING ANY CALL FOR THE OVERTHROW
OF TENG OR HIS SUPPORTERS. THEY APPEAL FOR VIGILANCE AGAINST
THE CAPITALIST ROADERS' TRICKS OF STIRRING UP THE MASSES
OR SABOTAGING THE ECONOMY IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.
FINALLY, IN A PASSAGE WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN
ATTEMPT TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF CAMPAIGN CASUALTIES, THEY
REPEAT THE MAXIM THAT ONE MUST "CURE THE SICKNESS AND SAVE THE
PATIENT." THUS, INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING UP ON A COLLECTION OF
SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST TENG AND THE CAPITALIST ROADERS,
THE EMPHASIS APPEARS TO REMAIN ON A CONTROLLED AND ORDERLY
DEVELOPMENT OF THE CAMPAIGN, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT.
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